

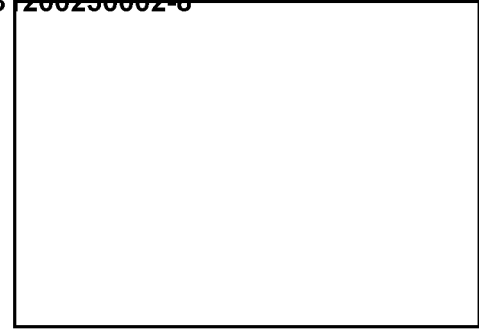


Director of
Central
Intelligence

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National Intelligence Daily

Tuesday
27 March 1979

State Dept. review completed

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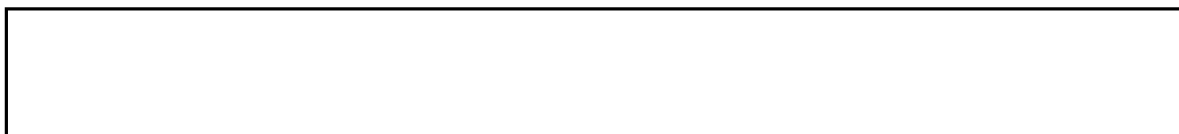
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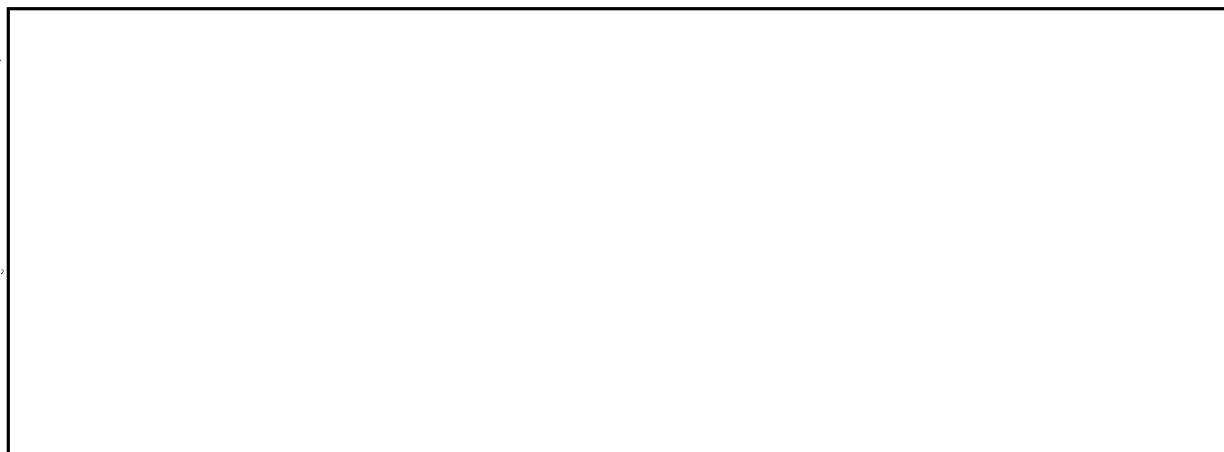
Briefs and Comments



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Overnight Reports 18

The Overnight Reports, printed on yellow paper as the final section of the *Daily*, will often contain materials that update the Situation Reports and Briefs and Comments.

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RHODESIA: Election Preparations

The transitional government is making a major effort to assure a large voter turnout in the election that will be held in mid-April. The government now expects over 60 percent of an estimated 2.8 million eligible blacks to vote. Because of government pressure and intimidation by the black parties we expect the turnout to be fairly high. [redacted]

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According to press reports from Pretoria, Rhodesian officials yesterday announced that white Rhodesians will go to the polls on 10 April. The date for the elections of the black members of Parliament has not yet been fixed, but is expected to fall between 12 and 24 April. [redacted]

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About 2,000 black regular soldiers have been sent to rural areas to protect blacks from intimidation by guerrillas and to promote good will for the internal settlement process by reopening clinics and schools, and restoring agricultural services. [redacted]

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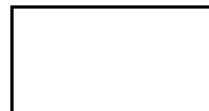
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At least 10,000 armed auxiliaries--ex-guerrillas and local recruits--are now stationed in the tribal trust lands where their immediate purpose is to persuade blacks to vote. Nine out of 10 auxiliaries are loyal to Bishop Muzorewa, and the remainder support Nbadaningi Sithole. Some black leaders are charging that a "reign of terror" exists in areas where Muzorewa's auxiliaries are stationed; some have been moved out of certain regions following complaints of harassment by the local population. [redacted]

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Most of the auxiliaries are undisciplined and untrained, and there is concern among the whites that they will be difficult to disband and disarm after the election. [redacted]

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OVERNIGHT REPORTS

(The items in the Overnight Reports section have not been coordinated within the intelligence community. They are prepared overnight by the Office of Current Operations with analyst comment where possible from the production offices of NFAC.)

Saudi Arabia - Arab States

The Saudi Council of Ministers, which normally convenes on Tuesdays, met last night for a final review of the stance to be taken at the conference of Arab opponents of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty opening today in Baghdad. Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud told Ambassador West afterward that the US is already familiar with the position he will represent in Baghdad; Saud also agreed to confer with West upon his return from Iraq. Press reports indicate that, other than Egypt, Arab states not expected to be represented in the Baghdad sessions are Djibouti, Sudan, and Oman. [REDACTED]

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USSR-Syria

The joint communique issued upon Foreign Minister Gromyko's departure from Syria yesterday denounced the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty and warned that it would be used to further "the attempt of imperialism to expand its military presence in the Middle East region." The US Embassy in Moscow noted Gromyko's offer to cooperate with "other" Arab states taking a "realistic, worthy position" against the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, regarded that reference as applying chiefly to Saudi Arabia, and found Gromyko's formulation in support of a Palestinian "state" less ambiguous than the usual Soviet posture on that subject. [REDACTED]

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Canada

The government announced last night that the general election for seats in the national legislature will be held on 22 May. [REDACTED]

COMMENT: Prime Minister Trudeau had to call the election by 31 July. The latest opinion polls give his Liberal Party a slim lead over the Progressive Conservatives led by Joe Clark. [REDACTED]

Thailand-USSR

Thai Prime Minister Kriangsak today is expected to end his six-day, official visit to the USSR. The US Embassy in Moscow commented yesterday that Kriangsak was able to give some substance to the Thai balancing act between Moscow and Peking. Soviet media suggested differences did emerge--possibly over China and Indochina--and the Embassy believes the Soviets entertained no expectation of a "breakthrough," but hoped to improve slowly their relations with ASEAN members while undercutting US and Chinese influence in Southeast Asia. [REDACTED]

China

The US Embassy in Beijing reported yesterday that opposition has started to grow to the alleged speech of 16 March by Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping criticizing the dissident movement in China. The opposition has begun to surface on wallposters in the capital. Several dissident sources have told the Embassy that many activists feel intimidated by official pressure to restrict open criticism. Some feel that a confrontation might be inevitable, however, especially on the third anniversary of the Tiananmen incident on 5 April, when Chinese activists are expected to march and hold rallies for "human rights and democracy." [REDACTED]

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Egypt - West Germany

According to a Western wire service report, Arab sources in Bonn said today that President Sadat will stop there on Thursday en route home from the US. He reportedly will confer with Chancellor Schmidt on prospects for West German participation in an international effort to provide economic assistance to Egypt. [REDACTED]

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Grenada

The US Embassy in Bridgetown reports that Prime Minister Bishop formed a seven-man cabinet on Sunday, reserving for himself the security, foreign affairs, and information portfolios. He also suspended the constitution, stating that Grenada would function under 10 "people's laws" for "several months" until a new constitution is submitted to a popular referendum. Bishop said Grenada would remain in the British Commonwealth and the Caribbean Common Market and continue to regard Queen Elizabeth II as titular head of state. The Embassy commented yesterday that Bishop's moves apparently rule out quick elections and efforts to provide a constitutional shield for the takeover by his New Jewel Movement. [REDACTED]

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